



PARTNERS IN FLIGHT NEWSLETTER

<http://www.partnersinflight.org>

January 2008

4th International Partners in Flight Conference

Over 600 bird conservationists are on their way to McAllen for our conference. It should be terrific! Two reminders and two requests:

First, registration closes on 28 January. Because we have to plan for four full meals – three lunches and a dinner – we must order the correct amount of food somewhat ahead of time. Thus, we are not planning for any on-site registration.

Second, we have put up a Conference Announcements page where we will place important information right up to the opening day of the conference. This already includes details on a new reception by the Bird Educators Alliance for Conservation (BEAC), sponsored by International Migratory Bird Day and the National Audubon Society on Tuesday evening.

First request – everyone who registered should have received an e-mail confirmation. If you did not receive such an e-mail, please contact me immediately. Related to this, if you have an “O” in your name, e.g., O’Neill or O’Malley, you may have been dropped into a mysterious crack **even if you received a confirming e-mail**. If you have a name like this, please also contact me right now.

Second request – we are still seeking items for the silent auction such as books, art, and optics. Please consider sending something even if you won’t be there. See <http://www.partnersinflight.org/events/mcallen/program.htm#auction>.

Other conference details are updated almost daily, so be sure to visit the PIF web site often. See you on the Rio Grande!—Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov)

IMBD 2008 Original Art Work Drawing for Bird Conservation

For the first time, you have a chance to win original International Migratory Bird Day art, while supporting bird conservation. With a minimum donation of just \$5, your name will be included in a drawing for the 2008 International Migratory Bird Day art. All donations will benefit *La Tangara*, the newsletter of the International Working Group of Partners in Flight. This newsletter and its associated website are critical for information exchange about Neotropical Migratory Bird

Conservation. Our goal is to raise at least \$10,000.00, which will make *La Tangara* available to biologists and educators in the Western Hemisphere for one year.

The drawing will be held at the conference banquet on 16 February 2008. You do not have to be present to win. Visit www.birdday.org/conservation.php for details. —MigratoryBirdDay@aol.com

2008 International Migratory Bird Day Education Catalog

Environment for the Americas is mailing out the 2008 International Migratory Bird Day Education Catalog. The catalog offers great materials and resources for your IMBD event. Send contact information and addresses to Emily at (migratorybirdday@aol.com) for your free copy or to request multiple copies for further distribution. And be sure to visit <http://birdday.org/>.

New Costa Rican Bird Route

The Costa Rican Bird Route has been created by the Rainforest Biodiversity Group (<http://www.greatgreenmacaw.org/>) to promote the conservation of habitat and biological diversity through bird tourism within the Sarapiquí region of northeastern Costa Rica. This route lies within the San Juan-La Selva Biological Corridor, a section of the Mesoamerican Biological Corridor (http://www.tbpa.net/case_10.htm). A special evaluation tour will take place immediately following the McAllen PIF conference. It is hoped that this will be a successful model for elsewhere in Costa Rica and Central America.

Restoring North America's Migratory Birds: Saving Birds and Habitat through Cooperative Conservation

In December 2006, the White House invited the Cornell Lab of Ornithology (CLO) to recommend how the federal government could help restore habitats and populations of declining migratory birds. CLO convened a group of leaders in the bird conservation community and together prepared the report, "Restoring North America's Migratory Birds." The report recommended six key actions by which the U.S. government could help migratory birds and their habitats. On 20 October 2007, President Bush outlined a national strategy for bird conservation, which included many of the recommendations in the team's report and also emphasized a new initiative to fund conservation and education National Parks. See (<http://www.whitehouse.gov/news/releases/2007/10/20071020-2.html>) for a transcript of President Bush's address.

Olive-sided Flycatcher Receives Threatened Status in Canada

In November 2007, the Canadian population of Olive-sided Flycatcher was assessed as threatened because it is estimated to have declined 79% from 1968

to 2006, and 29% from 1996-2006. The cause of this widespread and consistent population decline is unknown and there is no evidence that the decline has ceased. For more information about endangered wildlife in Canada go to (www.cosewic.gc.ca).—Thomas Jung (Tom.Jung@gov.yk.ca)

11th Annual Great Backyard Bird Count

The 11th annual Great Backyard Bird Count (GBBC) is just next month (15 February 2008). The GBBC is a great outdoor activity that families can do together. This event is sponsored by the Cornell Lab of Ornithology and the National Audubon Society. We were pleasantly flabbergasted by the surge in checklists during the 2007 count, and are hoping to reach (and perhaps exceed) that record-breaking level of participation in 2008. We received about 4,000 images for the 2007 photo contest and it's been a tough call picking the best! They would make a nice complement to an article about the GBBC or as a stand-alone item. You can see some of them in the GBBC web site Gallery: (<http://www.birdsource.org/gbbc/gallery/2007>).—Pat Leonard (pe127@cornell.edu)

PIF, PARC, Bats and Pollinators

At the fall meeting of the PIF Western Working Group, participants agreed that it was time to examine the overlap in conservation interests of PIF, Partners in Amphibian and Reptile Conservation (PARC - <http://www.parcplace.org/>), the Western Bat Working Group (<http://www.wbwg.org/>), and the North American Pollinator Protection Campaign (<http://www.nappc.org/>). A brainstorming meeting is being planned for some time during the week of the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference 25-29 March 2008 in Phoenix (see Meetings below). If you are interested in exploring collaboration among these initiatives in Phoenix or otherwise, please contact Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov).

Creation of Chiloe Bird Observatory

I am happy to announce the creation of Chile's first organization devoted to bird-focused conservation, education, and outreach—the Chiloe Bird Observatory. The Observatory will be housed within the newly built Chiloe Museum in Castro and is directed by Jorge Valenzuela. Observatory programs include a bird camp for students, waterbird and landbird censuses, research projects, and an avian collection. The Observatory will play an essential role in the development of Chiloe Islands and, indeed, Chile's fledgling conservation movement.

Funding for educational programs will be scarce and difficult to obtain, so I am asking for your support. Please contact me if you have optical equipment (binoculars, scopes, and tripods) and/or banding equipment (pliers, calipers, wing rules, scales) that you would like to donate to the Observatory. Bird related

education materials would also be useful.—Jim Johnson
(jim_a_johnson@fws.gov)

Québec Shorebird Conservation Plan

The Québec Shorebird Conservation Plan is now available. There is a pdf version available to anyone through ftp. Simply copy and paste this link (<ftp://brouillard.wul.gc.ec.gc.ca/depot/OiseauxDeRivageDuQuebec>) you're your web browser and both the English and French pdf files should appear on the screen. Then right click on the file and save to your computer. If that doesn't work, please let me know and I can send you a copy on a CD.—Richard Cotter (richard.cotter@ec.gc.ca)

Bird News Network

The American Bird Conservancy (ABC) has launched the Bird News Network (BNN), a syndicated news service for stories about birds and bird conservation throughout the Americas. We are inviting organizations to participate by submitting press releases and story ideas and by subscribing to the news service. BNN will enable media professionals, birders, and conservation organizations interested in birds and bird conservation to subscribe to an RSS news feed that will provide regular press releases and summaries of national press coverage on bird conservation issues. These releases will include regular video news webcasts as well as stories from ABC and its partners, Bird Conservation Alliance members and other interested organizations. News outlets can syndicate the RSS feed on their websites and blogs. To view current BNN headlines go to ABC website (www.abcbirds.org).—Alicia Frances King

Other Media Resources

B-Roll: A growing archive of broadcast quality videotape of birds and current bird conservation issues is available to television outlets via file or tape. High-quality photos suitable for printing are available upon request to newspapers, magazines, and websites. Please contact Steve Holmer with story ideas.—
sholmer@abcbirds.org

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Technical Publications

A list of the FWS Biological Technical Publication series is now available at <http://library.fws.gov/BTP/index.htm> in pdf format. Paper copies are also available from the contact listed on the back of a given the title page.—Stephanie L. Jones (Stephanie_Jones@fws.gov).

Burrowing Owl Symposium Proceedings Available

The long awaited 2003 California Burrowing Owl Symposium Proceedings are now available at <http://www.albionenvironmental.com/proceedings.html>.—Jeff Miller (jmiller@biologicaldiversity.org)

Linking Conservation and Land Use Planning

The publication, "Linking Conservation and Land Use Planning," by Defenders of Wildlife deals with an issue that Partners in Flight has still not broken into to the degree necessary – local land use planning and development. See it at http://www.defenders.org/programs_and_policy/habitat_conservation/conservation_planning/publications.php.

Tools for Analysis of Conservation, Monitoring Data Website

"Statistical/Modeling Tools for the Design and Analysis of Conservation Monitoring Data", is a project of UC Santa Cruz and The Nature Conservancy of California. It has explanations of each tool presented and a spreadsheet for analysis. It looks potentially very useful for anyone in the field. Check it out at <http://bio.research.ucsc.edu/people/doaklab/natconserv/index.html>.—Christine Paige (lcpaige@earthlink.net)

Fellowship Programs from the Smithsonian Institution

There are a number of training opportunities available for pre-graduate, graduate and postgraduate students through institution-wide fellowship programs at the Smithsonian Institution (<http://www.si.edu/ofg/SORScontents.htm>) The Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute (STRI), a division of the Smithsonian Institution in Washington D.C., with marine and terrestrial research facilities on the Isthmus of Panama, offers fellowships for undergraduate, predoctoral and postdoctoral research in the areas represented by its scientific staff. Disciplines include ecology, anthropology, paleontology, paleoecology, evolutionary biology, molecular phylogenetics, biogeography, animal behavior, neurobiology, soils sciences, and physiology of tropical plants and animals.

The Earl S. Tupper 3-Year Postdoctoral Fellowship is one of the fellowships administered directly by STRI. Another, the Stanley Rand Fellowship Program (**deadlines are February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15**) provides support for short-term research in the tropics focused on animal behavior, natural history, evolutionary biology, plant and animal ecology and environmental monitoring. There are also fellowships offered exclusively for candidates from universities in Latin America, particularly Central America and Panama (deadlines also February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15). See (http://www.stri.org/english/education_fellowships/fellowships/index.php).—Adriana Bilgray (fellows@si.edu)

AOU Research Awards for 2008

Instructions for submitting an application for a 2008 AOU Research Award are now available and can be accessed on the AOU website (www.aou.org) by following the Awards link to the Research Awards page. Questions can be directed to the Chair of the AOU Research Awards Committee either by e-mail (rbowman@archbold-station.org) or by regular mail: REED BOWMAN, Avian Ecology Lab, Archbold Biological Station, 123 Main Dr., Venus, FL 33960. **The deadline is 4 February 2008.**

2008 Park Flight Migratory Bird Program

The Park Flight Program, 2008 will offer 11 internships for applicants from Latin America [Mexico, Central America and South America] and the Caribbean. These international internships provide the opportunity for an exchange of knowledge and experience in science, culture and language. The internships will begin from April to August 2008, and will last from two to six months. Skills required for these internships include experience with bird banding (the majority of positions) or other bird monitoring, experience with education and outreach related to birds or other conservation topics, and at least an intermediate level of English (reading, writing, understanding and speaking). **The deadline for applications has been extended to 31 January 2008.** Applicants should send a CV (Spanish is okay) with a cover letter in English explaining why they are interested in and qualified for the internships, along with the names, email addresses, and phone numbers of two professional references.

Due to some email problems since the *La Tangara* (#66) announcement about Park Flight internships, please advise anyone who already submitted an application to please resubmit their CV, cover letter, and references to Carol Beidleman.—Carol Beidleman (Carol_Beidleman@partner.nps.gov).

MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES

4th International Partners in Flight Conference

13-16 February 2008 in McAllen, Texas. Visit the PIF web site for the latest information.

Conservation and Ecology of Grassland Vertebrates Conference: Call for Symposia and Contributed Papers

Abstracts are now being accepted for contributed papers and posters for this conference, to be held 15 -19 April 2008, on the campus of the University of Oklahoma, Norman, OK. The purpose of this conference is to bring together researchers from various disciplines to share ideas and findings related to

grassland ecosystems. Some session topics include: climate change, fire, and habitat fragmentation; grasslands as winter habitat; grazing impacts; energy development; woody plant invasion; breeding ecology; stream alteration; toxicology; conservation and management strategies; habitat selection; capacity building and outreach; and partnering among stakeholders. The conference hosts invite proposals to organize and chair symposia on any of the above topics or on other topics related to the ecology and conservation of grasslands. For details, visit www.suttoncenter.org. **Abstracts for oral and poster presentations must be received by 15 February 2008.**—Dan L. Reinking (dreinking@ou.edu)

Floodplain Ecosystem Symposium for Southeastern U.S.

This conference will be held 4-6 March 2008, in Little Rock, Arkansas. It is intended for wildlife and forestry practitioners, researchers, hydrologists, ecologists, state and federal resource agencies, policy makers, conservation organizations, academia students, and those interested in floodplain ecosystems. Conference themes include: geomorphic processes and alterations in floodplains, hydrologic processes in riverine ecosystems; water quality; fish and wildlife ecology and management; ecology of floodplain forests; restoration and management, policy and synthesis; lessons learned from farm bill programs and future challenges. Visit (<http://www.afrc.uamont.edu/floodplainsymposium/>) to learn more about the agenda, registration and submission of papers and presentations.

Alaska Bird Conference

The 12th Biennial Alaska Bird Conference will be held in Fairbanks, Alaska, 4-7 March 2008. Conference details will be posted on the Alaska Bird Observatory website as they become available (<http://www.alaskabird.org>).

Partners in Flight Meetings

The next meeting of the PIF Implementation Committee will take place on 23-24 March 2008, immediately prior to the North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference (<http://www.wildlifemanagementinstitute.org/>) in Phoenix, AZ. Various bird conservation committees of the Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies will meet that week, as usual. In addition, the PIF Science Committee also will meet on 28-30 March in the Phoenix area. Details on PIF meetings will be distributed via listservs. If you are not a member of these listservs and would like to be, or if you just want information for these particular meetings, contact Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov). This week will be packed with important discussions on bird conservation, so we invite everyone to consider participating in one or more meetings.

Wilson Ornithological Society

The 2008 Annual Meeting of the Wilson Ornithological Society will be held 18–20 April 2008 in Mobile Alabama, an important trans-Gulf migration site. This will be a joint meeting with the Association of Field Ornithologists. The local host, Frank Moore, may be reached at Frank.Moore@usm.edu.

Central Wisconsin Prairie Chicken Festival

This “Celebration of Grasslands for Birders and Bookies”, takes place 18–20 April 2008. Please visit (www.goldensandsrccd.org) for additional information.—Sharon Schwab.

AOU, COS, and SCO Joint Annual Conference

The American Ornithologists’ Union, Cooper Ornithological Society and Society of Canadian Ornithologists will meet jointly in Portland, OR on 4-8 August 2008 (<http://www.pdxbirds08.org/>). **Deadline for abstracts is 15 April 2008**, although the Call for Papers itself has not yet been circulated. This is the 125th anniversary of the AOU, so there likely will be more festivities than usual.

North American Association for Environmental Education

NAAEE will hold its annual conference in Wichita, KS on 15-18 October 2008 (<http://www.naaee.org/conference/2008-conference>). Members of the Bird Education Working Group will be presenting updated papers on various aspects of the Bird Education Strategic Plan. **Deadline for abstracts is 29 January 2008**. We continue to encourage bird conservationists to build the network with educators. If you play a role in bird education and outreach, consider getting involved in NAAEE and its activities.

Cerulean Warbler Summit 3/Golden-winged Warbler Summit

The subject summit will take place 21–25 October 2008, in Bogotá and San Vicente de Chucurí, Colombia. The members of the Cerulean Warbler Technical Group, El Grupo Cerúleo, and the members of the Golden-winged Warbler Working Group, Alianza Alas Doradas, are pleased to announce a meeting devoted to conservation planning for migratory and resident birds of the northern Andes. The summit will be held at the headquarters of the Federación Nacional de Cafeteros de Colombia, Bogotá, Colombia, in the town of San Vicente de Chucurí; and at the facilities of the Cerulean Warbler Bird Reserve, Colombia.

All persons interested in the conservation of migratory and resident birds in the Northern Andes and management of forest and agroecosystems for birds in the Northern Andes are invited to attend. For further information visit the home page of El Grupo Cerúleo (<http://www.srs.fs.usda.gov/egc/>). For information on

logistics and costs of the meeting, please see (<http://www.ecoturs.org>).—Paul B. Hamel (phamel@fs.fed.us)

National Association for Interpretation

NAI will hold its annual national workshop in Portland, OR on 11-15 November 2008 (<http://interpnet.com/workshop/>). As with NAAEE (see above), we want to continue to build links to educators who can help us meet bird conservation needs. **Deadline for abstracts is 31 March 2008.**

25th International Ornithological Congress 2010, Call for Proposals

The 25th International Ornithological Congress will be held in Campos do Jordão, Brazil, 22-28 August 2010. The Scientific Program Committee has been formed and a web page is in place (<http://www.i-o-c.org> or <http://www.ib.usp.br/25ioc>). The Scientific Program Committee (SPC) invites you to submit symposium proposals for the next IOC. Symposia are to focus on the general ornithologist and provide up-to-date coverage of current ornithological research. Similar to the last IOC meeting, each symposium will include two keynote addresses that should summarize the global progress of ornithological science in the field over the last four years and address priorities for future research. The call for contributed papers (which will come in early 2009) will include a box that contributors can check if they wish to be considered for specific symposia.

Proposals for symposia must be received on or before 1 June 2008.

Inquires may be made to the General for the Congress at ioc2010@ib.usp.br or to Carol Vleck (ioc2010@iastate.edu).

The next newsletter will be issued on 1 April 2008. Items are due 15 March 2008 to Terry Rich (terry_rich@fws.gov). The PIF Newsletter is assembled by Jina Mariani (jmariani@fs.fed.us) and Terry Rich.